

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
COUNTY OF NEWPORT

The Board of Canvassers of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Meeting at the Tiverton Town Hall, 343 Highland Road on Tuesday October 15, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Bobby J Harris-present

Member DeEtta

Moran-present

Alternate Jean Veegh-present

Town Clerk-Nancy Mello-present

Alternate Charles Moran- absent Clerk Kathleen

Wood-present

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

1. Review and Approve minutes:

- **May 20, 2013:** A motion was made by Ms. Moran, seconded by Ms. Veegh to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.
- **May 21, 2013:** A motion was made by Ms. Moran, seconded by Ms. Veegh to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the October 8, 2013 meeting will be reviewed at the next Board of Canvassers Meeting.

Ms. Moran made a motion to request that in the future any minutes of past meetings being considered for approval be e-mailed to members in advance of the next meeting for their review. Ms. Veegh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. General Discussion of the Election Process:

Ms. Mello reminded the board that because of the many problems that we encountered at the 2013 FTR with the “Eagles” Bob Rapoza of the Rhode Island Board of Elections, will no longer agree to deliver Voting Equipment to the Town Hall instead of directly to the Polls. Ms Mello is concerned that the delivery time is too far in advance of the elections, and that the equipment is stored unattended at the polling locations for too long. The Board will discuss the problem and possible solution with Mr. Rapoza when the 2014 FTR gets closer.

3. FTR process review and possible resolutions:

The Board will meet on Thursday November 7th at 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall to discuss problems and concerns with the FTR process. There are several areas that could be improved to make the process more streamlined and efficient. Any amendments and updates must be done through a Charter change placed on the ballot for the November 2014 election. Some suggestions for improvement were:

a .Use fewer polling locations if there is only one Budget Proposal.

b. Using Town Hall as a polling location, in addition to

absentee (early) voting.

c. Remove the Super Majority requirement in order to eliminate the necessity of a runoff.

The Board will also meet with Nancy Driggs and Jeff Caron, former members of the Financial Town Meeting Changes Advisory Committee.

The recommended changes would then go before the Town Council for their review and approval before being placed on the ballot.

4. Poll Worker Training & Recruitment:

a. Because of the equipment problems encountered at the 2013 FTR, Ms. Mello suggested, that the poll worker training conducted by the Board of Elections should have a troubleshooting portion. The poll workers should be able to do basic repairs to the “Eagles”, such as clearing paper roll jams.

b. The Board of Elections Poll Worker Training & Recruitment Taskforce suggested that there might be some value to testing the poll workers at the end of the poll worker training. The Board felt that testing might scare potential poll workers, and that would eliminate some people.

c. There was a short discussion regarding using poll workers for ½ day shifts.

Mr. Harris was not in favor of ½ day shifts; however Ms. Mello and Ms. Moran were in favor. Ms. Mello thought that ½ day workers were not as tired at the end of the night when they were assisting with the closing of the polls, and transporting election materials to the Town Hall in a timely manner. Ms Mello thought that some might not have the stamina to work a full day. (Poll workers are required to be at the polls at 6:00 a.m. and might be there until 9:00 p.m.)

d. In order to recruit as many qualified poll workers as possible Ms. Moran will place a notice in the Villages at Mount Hope Bay newsletter. Ms. Wood suggested that an ad in the newspaper listing the pay scales might generate more workers. Any registered Rhode Island voter is eligible to be a poll worker.

5. Board Member Items:

a. New Board Member: The Board will speak to new member Paul Amaral to see when he is available to attend meetings. He has a new job and may not be able to attend day meetings. Ms. Mello stated that we cannot have regular meetings in the evening because there is no money in the budget to pay overtime for a clerk to attend and take minutes

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 400 p.m. at the Tiverton Town Hall.

There being no further business, Ms. Moran made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Veegh. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Bobby Harris Chair_____DeEtta Moran,
member_____

Paul Amaral, member _____absent_____

Jean Veegh, Alternate_____ Charles Moran,
Alternate_____absent_____

A True Copy:

ATTEST: _____Nancy L.
Mello Town Clerk